

## AUSTRALIA FACES GREAT PROBLEMS

## Political Reconstruction Coming Rapidly With the War Issue Settled.

**HUGHES LEADING FIGURE**  
**Farmers and Soldiers Form**  
**New Parties and Old Align-**  
**ments Are Melting.**

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 SYDNEY, Australia, Oct. 1.—Australia is undergoing a political reconstruction, a natural aftermath and development of the return of peace. During the war the policies and politics—if the latter word may be used—held the country to one big resolve, "Win the war." With few exceptions this was the dominating slogan of the war and through it Australia made her contribution to the

forces of the British Empire to assist in conquering Germany and her allies.

Now the reverse has come and the country instead of being a single powerful political unit, concentrated on one big problem, is split into several parties with parties branching out and forming new connections, new parties organizing, each determined that it is powerful enough to win the control of the country in the days ahead of reconstruction and the return to the normal and comfortable conditions of life.

Some of the problems confronting the country and the leaders who now aspire to political rule are the high cost of living, with its always attendant competition for the necessities of life, and heavy taxation; tariff revision, naval expansion, urgent constitutional problems and the dissatisfaction of the vast numbers of the population who have not adequate care must be taken until the country can be absorbed into the general run of industrial life. Of course Bolshevism has reared its head in the midst of these various problems and the various political parties and their leaders appear to have united on a defence of the country and a strong defence against this form of

Throughout Australia, in West Australia, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, the farmers and stockholders are preparing to form political parties, to be identified closely with the producing interests. Considering the scope of the movement, the leaders believe that they will have sufficient power to influence the government of the country. On the other hand the employing classes maintain an attitude tending toward conservatism and are equally confident that their middle class parties will prevail as presently constituted. Also there must be considered the Labor party, which has ejected all the radicals, especially the group which favors and advocates a soviet form of government. The Labor party's action the Labor leaders can perceive only as a tactical move, and they have no reason why their voice should not be

predominant in Australian affairs in this new period to come.

At the outbreak of the present fighting William Morris Hughes, the Premier, a former labor leader, a master of oratory and with a reputation as a fighter which he gained during the war and won the admiration of the British people, had been in all classes in Australia while the war was in progress. He recently returned from a trip to England, where he conferred with Premier Lloyd George, and his return to the home front was greeted with strangely uncertain, perhaps scattered, by his own leaders astray and affairs generally in a muddled condition. The driving force which had gained him the position of Premier was the conviction that he could win the war had scattered and his organization had become disintegrated. The Nationalists, his own party, were showing a strong tendency to follow the British Government line to fight the new conditions

Through-out the States the same feeling prevailed, the Nationalists as a war

party dissolving, but still ready to co-operate and form a government on imperial lines. In the State legislatures and in the present cabinets this condition appeared, but with it there came an ef-

Another of the problems before the Premier is the sectional rivalry throughout the country. In this each section puts itself above any other and believes that the Premier ought to give it attention first. The belief also prevails that the Premier will have to give the German industry a large tribute, and it is such a thing that it ought to be taken care of first, at least so far as finances and indemnity are concerned.

Of the qualities of Mr. Hughes and his ability as a political leader little need be said. By some in this country he is compared to Abraham Lincoln. He is a native-born States' rights man, but with a deeper insight into American affairs, American Presidents and American aspirants for leadership, he is placed with undoubtedly a better and stronger fighting spirit. Perhaps no greater compliment was paid to Premier Hughes, and one which should be remembered, than when he was called the British Empire's answer to the Kaiser, and the British Empire, in addition to Australia, that then given to him by Premier Lloyd George in England during the days of the war when he said:

"Mr. Hughes here understands the British democracy here (England) and beyond the seas. No living man has shown himself to possess so many gifts."

democracy—courage, pertinacity, foresight, idealism, forceful and eloquent speech and a great capacity for work.

As the British Empire depended upon him to assist in winning the war in its most trying days and critical period, so Australia at the present time, in the trying, critical period of reconstruction,

looks to Mr. Hughes to solve her problems.

A commodious white brick building on the seashore in north Yokohama looks very much like a big Government or business office. But it is not. It is Japan's largest bath house, and was opened on September 13. There one can

get a bath for half a cent, a haircut for a cent and a half and two shaves for a nickel. At the opening the directors also announced that tea would be served free and that all the ladies

be served free and that all the latest newspapers and magazines might be perused in the reading room without charge.

**Rickshaw 50 Cents a Day.**  
The proprietor of one rickshaw business in Shanghai is said to own 3,000 of the vehicles, which are rented out at

\$1 Mex. (under normal exchange: 30 cents) a day.